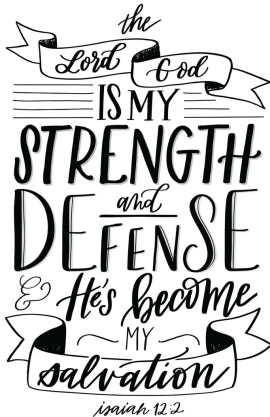


PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

November 5, 2023

Welcome!



"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of the from the earth."

We welcome Ken Palmer who will be speaking to us today!

Minister: Timothy Agee
timothy@teamagee.com
615-330-8652

Prayer List

We mourn with Keith Walker in the loss of his uncle, **Ted Lewellyn**

Brian Crouch is cancer-free!

Our sympathies to **Olivia Agee's** family on the loss of her grandmother

Kristine Garrett will be entering another clinical trial next week for her cancer treatment.

Frieda Perry is home from rehab after her hospital stay

Diane Singleton continues to struggle with her health. They are considering surgery.

Continue to pray for: **Michael & Regan Loosli, Maria Hunter Harrington, Steve Webb**, the **Walker** family, the **Mayo** family, **Doug Demonbreun, Belinda Mayo, Rebecca Brown**, the **Tabor** family, the **Buchanan** family, **Bige Shepherd, Forshia Pennington, Carol Saling, Keith Walker, Camille Brosky**, those in **Ukraine**; **Judy Cook, John Hayes, Nick Phifer**, and **Weston Johnson** and **Bill Gillock**

We invite everyone to join us Wednesday night at 7 as Tim continues our study of Romans in chapter 14

Serving Today

Song Leader:
Steve Buchanan

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:30 am)

Scripture Reading:
Dwight Pennington

Prayer:
Charlie Baker

WORSHIP (10:30 am)

Scripture Reading:
David Billingsley
Ephesians 4:1-3

Wait On Table:
Mike Reed

Serve:
Jearmie Gupton
Doug Demonbreun

Prayer:
Johnny Walker

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 am
Sunday PM Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm

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Suffering for the Cause of Christ (1 Peter 3:13-17)

In 2 Cor 11, Paul is defending his apostleship and reminding the Christians at Corinth about his credibility as an ambassador of the gospel. To this end he says the following regarding his suffering for Christ: ²⁴ *Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.* ²⁵ *Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea...*

Paul also says the following in 2 Tim 3 with regards to what Christians will face in a world that is opposed to the gospel: ¹² *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,* ¹³ *while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

In addition to Paul, suffering for the cause of Christ is also extensively discussed by many others in the New Testament. How do passages like these that discuss being persecuted as a Christian make us feel? Are they still relevant today for those of us who live in a “free” country like America? Reading about these experiences in scripture can lead to many questions.

Is suffering for Christ always going to be a part of being a child of God? Paul seems to be clear that it is a part of our walk with God (Rom 8:14-17; Phil 3:7-11). We must remember that genuine righteousness will **Always** be offensive to the world

If so, should we expect to be persecuted in the same ways as Paul? Direct physical persecution is prevalent in many parts of the world, but less likely in America than other countries. However, it is still possible that someone could react with crime, violence, etc. **If not, in what ways could we suffer for following Christ?** **Indirect:** Persecution of all Christians through mainstream media, social media, movies, music, etc. **Direct:** Facing hostility or anger from others; Divisions within families; Loss of friendships; Being excluded from “social circles”; Passed over for promotions at work.

What if I’m not being persecuted for the cause of Christ? What does this say about my faith? Maybe we don’t realize some of the persecution we are facing, because we have different priorities. However, if we truly are not facing ANY persecution then it should cause us to do some serious self-evaluation. We may say we are never around non-Christians, but should we not be putting ourselves in situations to interact with non-Christians. Have we ever been in a situation where we KNEW we should speak up about our faith, and we failed to do ANYTHING because we were afraid of the possible repercussions?

How do I prepare myself to face persecution? *Read* → 1 Peter 3:13-17

1. **Cheer Up!** (v. 14) “you will be blessed...” (Mt 5:10-12; 1 Peter 2:20; 4:12-16)
2. **Give Up!** (v. 14) “Have no fear of them, nor be troubled...” (Is 8:12b-13; Mt 10:28)
3. **Lift Up!** (v. 15) “honor Christ the Lord as holy...” (Lk 14:25-27, 33)
4. **Speak Up!** (v. 15) “always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”
5. **Shape Up!** (v. 16) “having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame...”